

Amendments to the Claim:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-31 (CANCELLED)

32. (new) An antiseptic composition comprising at least one salt of ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA) and a solvent, wherein the at least one EDTA salt comprises tetra-sodium EDTA and is at a concentration of at least 1.0% (w/v), wherein the antiseptic composition has a bactericidal effect over a broad spectrum of microbes, and wherein the antiseptic composition has a pH of at least 9.5.

33. (new) An antiseptic composition of claim 32, wherein the at least one salt of EDTA comprises an EDTA salt selected from the group consisting of: di-sodium, tri-sodium and tetra-sodium EDTA salts and combinations thereof.

34. (new) An antiseptic composition of claim 32, comprising tri-sodium and tetra-sodium EDTA.

35. (new) An antiseptic composition of claim 34, wherein the antiseptic composition has a pH of at least 10.0.

36. (new) An antiseptic composition of claim 32, comprising at least one EDTA salt at a concentration of at least 2.0%.

37. (new) An antiseptic composition of claim 32, wherein the solvent comprises water and an alcohol.

38. (new) An antiseptic composition of claim 37, comprising less than 10% (v/v) ethanol.

39. (new) An antiseptic composition of claim 32, wherein the solvent comprises saline.

39. (new) An antiseptic composition of claim 32 that is substantially free from an agent other than EDTA salt(s) having antimicrobial and/or anti-fungal activity that is at least 50% of the anti-microbial and/or antifungal activity of a sodium EDTA salt composition in aqueous solution at a concentration of 4% (w/v) and at a pH of 10.5.

40. (new) An antiseptic composition of claim 32 formulated for topical application to surfaces and objects.

41. (new) An antiseptic composition of claim 32 comprising tri- and tetra-sodium EDTA salts in an aqueous solvent at a concentration of between 2.0% and 8.0% (w/v) EDTA salt(s).

42. (new) An antiseptic composition of claim 41, wherein the aqueous solvent is selected from the group consisting of: water, saline, and a mixture of water and an alcohol.

43. (new) An antiseptic composition of claim 32 in a sterile, pyrogen-free form.

44. (new) An antiseptic composition provided in a dry or partially hydrated formulation that, upon reconstitution with a solvent, forms an antiseptic composition of claim 1.

45. (new) An antiseptic composition of either of claims 32 or 41 in sterile condition in a pre-filled syringe.

46. (new) An antiseptic composition of either of claims 32 or 41 in a sterile condition in a single-dosage vial.

47. (new) An antiseptic composition of either of claims 32 or 41 in a sterile condition in a multiple-dosage vial.

48. (new) A method for inhibiting the growth and proliferation of microbial populations on a surface or object, comprising contacting the surface or object with an antiseptic composition of either of claims 32 or 41.

49. (new) A method of claim 48, wherein the surface or object is selected from the group consisting of: catheters, medical tubes and conduits, intravascular devices and implanted medical devices.

50. (new) A method of claim 48, wherein the surface or object is selected from the group consisting of: medical instruments and devices, contact lenses, optical implants, dental, orthodontic and periodontal devices, water storage, distribution and treatment facilities, industrial equipment and food preparation and processing equipment.

51. (new) A method for substantially eradicating a broad spectrum of microbial populations present on a device selected from the group consisting of catheters, medical tubes

and conduits, intravascular devices and implanted medical devices, comprising contacting the device with an antiseptic composition of either of claims 32 or 41.

52. (new) A method for inhibiting the growth and proliferation of microorganisms in a biofilm matrix comprising contacting an object or surface infected with microorganisms in a biofilm matrix with an antiseptic composition of either of claims 32 or 41.